

Open Lands Board
Minutes – Meeting #13
August 11, 2008
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the County Commissioners Meeting Room

I. Meeting Called to Order – Dan Walker –Chair, at 7:05 PM

A. Roll Call (See Attachment A, Roll Call Sheet)

Board Members:

Dan Dunagan – Excused
Jim Ellingson –Present
Rob Johnson – Present
Dan Kraft – Excused
Gary Leese – Excused
Alan Maki – Excused
Kent Meyers –Present

Mike Moore- Present
John Ormiston – Excused
Mike Pfliger – Present
Craig Siphers – Excused
Tim Tackes – Present
Dan Walker – Present
Skip Kowlaski - Present

Planning Staff

Kimberli Conder
Vanessa Morrell

B. Review and approval of Minutes – May 15, 2008 Meeting

- The minutes were approved with the corrections added.

C. Amendments to Agenda

- There were none.

D. Public comment – Items not on the agenda

- There were none.

II. Old Business

III. New Business

A. Discussion of progress of the OLBP

Dan Walker asked how the committee could go about doing a good campaign to get the county educated about this program. What does this committee want to do to stimulate interest in this money the county has?

Lee suggested purchasing land as a board and then reselling it. He said forget sitting around and waiting for someone to come to us, and let the board start the interest and be the first project.

Dan stated as a reminder that this OLB is simply an advisory to the BCC. He said that buying land is something they could put on the table at a later date, but his concern is how can this board help Gavin and the Land Trust.

Gavin of the Bitterroot Land Trust stated that after speaking to the people, there are so many different land use things going on in the county right now that are “exciting”. There is a lot of misinformation on ALL of these things going on. He said that this group needs to remember that this is a VOLUNTARY program for landowners. He stated that people need to know what a conservation easement is, why they should have one, how can it help property owners etc. This is the information that needs to get out to the community.

Kent suggested extending an invitation to a group of people and have a presentation before the next meeting to educate the people about this.

Mike Moore also suggested that the Land Trust and the members of the OLB team up for a booth at the fair.

Dan summed up the information heard in this discussion and said he wants to see a couple of things. First, some sort of workshop or open house to be set up where the information can be given to the public. The media, partners etc would all be invited. Second, perhaps the board would do a more direct approach, perhaps in the form of a letter to community members. He said that patience is a virtue here and that is our best bet.

B. Staff changes within the Planning Department

Renee Lemon – Interim Planning Director and will be leaving by Thanksgiving

Shaun Morrell – Zoning Coordinator

John Lavey – Planner II

Kimberli Conder – will be leaving August 20, 2008

C. Marketing/Promoting the bond to county landowners

Dan stated that he and Mike Pflieger would take on the project of developing an education plan (i.e. open house outreach materials, etc.) while keeping in contact with Vanessa via email and phone calls. Dan also stated that he would like to set up an orientation type meeting for the new Board Members with both the board and the Land Trust. Kent will be the liaison and be working with Vanessa to make sure that everyone gets the information necessary for this.

IV. Ravalli Planning Staff: Updates and Report

V. Future meeting dates, proposed agenda items, and guest speakers

- **Next Scheduled Meeting –October 16, 2008 at 7:00 PM**

VI. Adjourn

- Dan adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.